etc., through OSBs. Reservation for various categories as indicated below is also provided:

SC/ST	—	25%
FF	—	5%
PH	—	7½%
DEFENCE	—	7½%
OPEN	—	55%

Steps for early completion of projects under Public Sector Units

6784. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps taken by Government so far to enforce economy and to evolve the ideal work culture with a view to make them competitive in each of the five big projects under implementation by ONGC and I.O.C. etc. as reported suggested in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 25th April, 1994 captioned "Petroleum PSUs may be urged to enforce economy";

(b) what action Government have taken so far to ensure an early completion of projects concerning oil production in the country in time and avoid their cost escalation indicating growing details of each such project and progress made therein till date particularly in (i) Digboi Refinery Modernisations (ii) Panipat Oil Refinery (iii) Kandla-Bhatinda Project (iv) Catalytic Reformer at Barauni and (v) Neelam Oilfields Project; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to revise the original allocation of the approved outlay of Rs. 26,552 crore for Petroleum such in the Eighth Plan to meet cost escalation and, if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken with reasons therefor and also indicating projects which are under Cabinet's approved at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Opposition to Government's Proposal Decontrol Plan by Private and Joint Sectors

6785. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new refineries proposed in the private and joint sectors, which have already been issued licenses, are threatening to withdraw from the scene if Government go ahead with its decontrol plan;

(b) if so, what are the detailed reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government, under pressure from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have worked out a plan to decontrol this sector; and

(d) if so, what is the proper justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

बिहार में अनुकंपा के आधार पर आवंटित पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद एजेंसिया

6786. **श्री रामदेव भंडारी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) बिहार में वर्ष 1990 से वर्ष 1994 की प्रथम तिमाही तक अनुकंपा के आधार पर आवंटित पेट्रोल पम्प एवं गैस वितरण एजेंसी पाने वालों का नाम, पता तथा स्थान सहित ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) उन्हें एजेंसी देने का कारण क्या है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) अप्रैल, 1990 से 31 मार्च, 1994 की अवधि के दौरान 5 खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र और 14 एल० पी० जी० डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप बिहार में अनुकंपा आधार पर आबंटित की गई थीं। उपर्युक्त में एक खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र और एक एल० पी० जी० डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप पुनरीक्षा के बाद रद्द किये गये।

(ख) प्रत्येक मामले के सभी पहलुओं और परिस्थितियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए कुछेक पात्र मामलों में ही अनुकंपा आधार पर आबंटन किया जाता है।

Complaints lodged by Dealers of LPG in Uttar Pradesh

6787. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will tne Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG dealerships sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh during 1993;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints from the dealers about forcibly taking away cylinders from the godowns; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and what action has been taken to book the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) 34 LPG distributorships were allotted in Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94.

(b) and (c) During the year 1993, 719 Indian cylinders were reportedly taken away by force from the LPG godowns of Indane distributors in Uttar Pradesh. In all the above cases, distributors have filed FIR with the police for necessary action.

Plans for expansion of Fertilizer Capacities

6788. SHRI MATNAG SINH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether acute shortage of natural gas seriously hit Government's plan for a major expansion of fertilizer capacities;

(b) if so, whether in view of this Government have been prompted to explore the possibilities of joint ventures with the countries having sizeable reserves of gas raw materials;

(c) whether two joint ventures are being explored with Qatar and Iran;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any agreement has recently been reached in this regard; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (f) The Government have initiated a number of short term and medium term measures to increase the production of natural gas which include the participation of private parties in exploration, and in the development of small and medium sized fields as also the import of gas from the Middle East which would increase the availability of gas for all the sectors including the fertilizer sector.

IOC's Plan to set up Refineries in Eastern Region

6789. SHRI MATANG SINH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation propose to set up two oil refineries in the eastern region;

(b) if so, the total proposed investment in these two refineries and the mode of mobilising the funds;

(c) whether any public issue is being proposed.